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FELON ARMED WITH 30-30 SHOTGUN SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON.

TUCSON, Ariz. – Reynold Theodore Pancho, 25, of Sells, Arizona, was sentenced here today to serve twenty-four months in federal prison by Chief U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Pancho had pleaded guilty on January 30, 2007 to the charge of Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

On August 16, 2006, Tohono O'odham Police Officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle. Reynold Pancho was the passenger of that vehicle, and was found to be in possession of a round of 30-30 caliber ammunition as well as a Winchester 30-30 caliber rifle. Pancho admitted that he was a convicted felon. A records check confirmed that Pancho was convicted in 2004 of the felony crime of Endangerment in Pima County Superior Court.

On October 17, 2006, a magistrate judge in Tucson ordered Defendant released from pretrial custody on this case, and allowed him to reside in a halfway house to participate in drug and alcohol treatment. Within an hour of his arrival at the halfway house, Pancho absconded. He was later rearrested and returned to federal custody pending the completion of this prosecution.

Pancho's prosecution is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods, an illegal firearms enforcement program. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by the U.S. Attorney. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, like the one in this case, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was jointly conducted by the Tohono O'odham Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-01821-TUC-JMR

RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-126(Pancho)